covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving, area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers training.

Development of Hindustan Organic Chemicals

614. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Hindustan Organic Chemicals, Kochi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Government has approved the Rehabilitation Scheme of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) to make its net worth positive and take it out of BIFR. As a result of this initiative, the company proposes to expand the existing capacities of its products, namely Hydrogen Peroxide, Cumene, Phenol and Acetone at an estimated cost of Rs. 163 crores. The company proposes to invest the amount from internal accruals and market borrowings.

Subsidy on fertilizer to farmers through smart cards

†615. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidy on fertilizers to farmers through smart cards;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated for providing direct subsidy on fertilizers to farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the required plan is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to look into the sustainability of fertilizer use and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues. The GoM is also considering various alternative mechanisms for delivery of subsidy to farmers including that through smart cards. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.